

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

Volume 1 Issue 7

February, 1998

---

## RECENT ISSUES

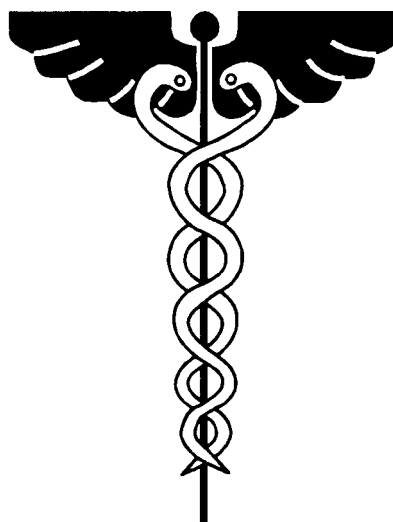
BOARD SCHEDULES  
HEARING FOR PUBLIC  
COMMENT ON RULES  
PROPOSALS

Over the past several years the Board has considered the issues being raised by the increasing ability of telemedicine to access and provide care across state boundaries. This important issue is being addressed in pending federal legislation and in states around the country.

Recently, the Federal government mandated that Medicare reimbursement be available for services provided using telemedicine. Additionally, the US Secretary of Health and Human Services has been directed to study the barriers to the use of telemedicine, **specifically** state licensure laws, and report back to congress.

Several states have passed laws requiring that the practice of telemedicine on patients within the state requires a full medical license within that state. Other states have adopted the Federation of State Medical Board's proposal to issue special licenses limited specifically to practice by telemedicine.

Traditionally, the New Hampshire Board has required a  
**Continued on page 3...**



2 Industrial Park Dr., Suite 8

Concord NH 03301

Telephone: (603) 271-1203

Facsimile: (603) 271-6702

Complaints: (800) 7804757

Editor: **Karen Lamoureux**,  
Administrator

## ABOUT THE BOARD

Board Members:

Lawrence W. O'Connell, Ph.D  
President Durham

Cynthia S. Cooper, MD  
Vice President Dover

Wassfy M. Hanna, MD Rye

Bruce J. Friedman MD Lebanon

Dana A. Merrithew, MD Plymouth

Jean A. Barnes Concord

James G. Sise, MD Keene

### RECENT CHANGES TO THE BOARD...

On September 1, 1997, the Board accepted with deep regret the resignation of Ms. Maureen P. Knepp, PA-C. Ms. Knepp had served on the Board for over nine years and had served as the Board's Vice President for Legislative Affairs for the past 3 years. Ms. Knepp was responsible for the **Continued on page 2...**

---

## Inside This Issue

---

1 About the Board-Recent Changes

---

2 Public Hearing-Telemedicine

---

3 Disciplinary Actions

---

4 New Application Process

---

5 Legislative Update

---

## RECENT CHANGES

### Continued from page 1...

passage of several critical pieces of legislation over the past several years and worked tirelessly in those and other efforts. Under her guidance, the Medical Practice Act was revised and updated comprehensively for the first time in over 30 years. As the Board's paramedical representative, she coordinated the passage of legislation that provided Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Respiratory Care Practitioners and Athletic Trainers with independent governing authority for their professions. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to Ms. Knepp for her tireless work on its behalf and wishes she and her family some well deserved good fortune in the coming years.

In September, the Board also welcomed a new member, James G. Sise, M.D. Dr. Sise is a general surgeon who has practiced in Keene for many years.

In October, the Board also welcomed a new addition to its staff Ms. Carol Cordero, from Nashua was hired to be the Board's first full time investigator. Ms. Cordero formerly worked for the State of New Hampshire as a fraud investigator with many years of experience in child support enforcement. The Board is very pleased to have Ms. Cordero on the staff and hopes that her services will go a long way to alleviating the current backlog of disciplinary investigations.



## DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following final disciplinary actions were taken by the Board from August 1, 1997-February 1, 1998.

### **Daniela Verani, M.D. - 10/9/97**

Entered into a Settlement Agreement on charges of unprofessional conduct in billing and professional demeanor. License suspended for 14 days, with suspension stayed for 2 years on terms.

### **Paul Cameron, M.D. - 12/5/97**

Voluntary Surrender of license in lieu of disciplinary action for sexual misconduct.

### **Brian J. Reilly, M.D. - 1/14/98**

Entered into a Settlement Agreement on charges of unprofessional conduct and violation of RSA 3 18-B. License suspended for 60 months with 57 months stayed pending completion of probationary terms.

### **Dennis L Swartout, M.D.-1/14/98**

Entered into a Settlement Agreement on charges of unprofessional conduct and violation of RSA 3 18-B. License suspended for 60 months with 57 months stayed pending completion of probationary terms.

### **William D. Morain, M.D.-1/13/98**

Entered into a Settlement Agreement on charges of unprofessional conduct. Applicant agreed to a 3 month suspension of license upon reinstatement of license.

## NEWSLETTER

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Once again, the General Court of the State of New Hampshire has convened to consider hundreds of proposals for new legislation. And once again, many of those bills concern the practice of medicine.

The following is a partial list of bills proposed for consideration during this legislative session.

**HB 1457** – This bill was requested by the Board to add physician assistants to the list of practitioners who can receive and dispense sample medications to meet the needs of their patients. PA's have, for many years, been permitted to prescribe medications. This bill provides authority for the PA to provide manufacturer's samples of these same medications to their patients.

**HB 1262** – This bill creates a full time, **unclassified** position for a physician as "medical review subcommittee administrator" under the Board of Medicine.

**HB 1407** – This bill proposes to restrict the term "physician" to those licensed under RSA 3 29, **specifically, MD's and DO's.**

**HB 1645** – This bill seeks to open all investigations of complaints conducted by state agencies to public access under RSA 9 1 -A. Currently, Board of Medicine investigations are confidential unless the Board **files** charges against the licensee.

**SB 383** – This bill proposes to establish a study committee to look into the issue of telemedicine.

**SB 385** – This bill, which is proposed as a result of the Continued on **page 3...**

Continued from page 1...

full license for any practitioner wishing to practice medicine via telecommunications on patients physically located within New Hampshire. This policy, however, is increasingly out of step with the rapid pace of change in medical technology and federal policy.

For this reason, the Board is considering the drafting of rules permitting a special license, similar to that which is available for locum tenens practice, for physicians who hold a full and unrestricted license in another state and wish to provide telemedicine services in New Hampshire.

The Board is concerned that such rules also include specific provisions to ensure that the public is adequately informed and protected. The Board is also very interested in obtaining information from physicians who have used or are using these advanced technologies or who are considering these questions in their practice.

For this reason, the Board will hold a public hearing to gather information prior to proposing any rules changes on this issue. Any licensee or interested party is invited to attend and speak on this issue.

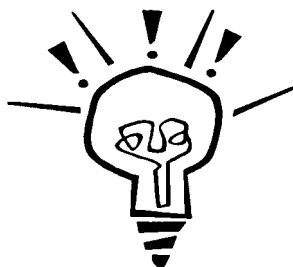
**The hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 1998 at 1:30 PM at the offices of the Board of Medicine, Anyone wishing to submit written comments may do so by forwarding those comments to the Board at 2 Industrial Park Dr., Concord, NH 03301.**

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board will determine a course of action and begin drafting rules proposals. **Once** rules are drafted, all interested parties will be afforded a second **opportunity** to comment on the specific proposals.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Continued from page 2...

study committee established under SB 159 in the prior legislative session, requires **all** superior courts in New Hampshire to **notify** the appropriate professional board in the event that a licensed health care professional is convicted of a felony in that court.



**URGENT!**

## NOTICE TO ALL PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

**All PA licenses expired on 12/31/97. If you have not renewed your license and received your license card in the mail, you must contact the Board's office immediately at 2716934.**

## NOTICE TO ALL PHYSICIANS

**Renewal applications will be mailed to the business address on file with the board as of April 1, 1998.**

**If you have changed practice location, you must notify the board by that date.**

**If you have not received a renewal application by May 1, 1998, contact the Board immediately at 271-6934.**

## NEWSLETTER

### NEW APPLICATION PROCESS..

### FCVS REQUIRED FOR ALL NEW APPLICANTS

Beginning on January 1, 1998, the Board revised its application process. **All new applicants are required to submit their background credentials to the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS), a service of the Federation of State Medical Boards.**

FCVS will collect all core credential information directly from the original source. They will verify that information and then serve as a repository for the original source documentation. In this way, the applicant will not be required to **re-verify** original credentials when they relocate from state to state.

The FCVS core document verification can proceed at the same time that the Board's background investigation is proceeding. While it is expected that this additional process will add to the amount of time necessary to process an initial application, this additional time will be saved on future application processes.

New Hampshire joins 3 other states 'which currently require prospective use of FCVS. Forty (40) other states accept FCVS documentation for core credentials necessary in their licensure processes.

The Board believes that FCVS offers a tremendous opportunity for physicians and state medical boards to improve the burdensome and duplicative process currently in place for state by state licensure.

Questions? Please feel free to contact the Board or call FCVS direct at:

**1-888-ASK-FCVS**